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TORIKAGO NO TSUGAI

#17: The Strange Bird's Nest

AUTHOR & ARTIST : MINAMI TOUTAROU

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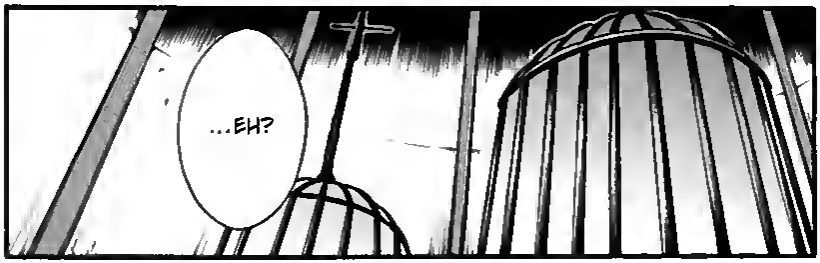
Torikago no Tsugai

Minami Toutarou

Chapter 17:
The Strange Bird's Nest

DRIP
DRIP


...EH?

You figured it out ...!?
!
Could it be that,
When Kuruwa and I were discussing our opinions...
GASP!
What exactly is going on here ...?
Why did you suddenly ...?

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Where is it then..?
NO.
!?
So you figured it out despite it having nothing to do with what we were talking about?
.....
NO.
TO PUT IT MORE CLEARLY,
IT HAD CROSSED MY MIND BEFORE
BUT,
ONCE WE FINALLY RETURNED BACK HERE TO THIS ROOM,
IT DAWNED ON ME.

THE ROOM WHERE TAKAHARA STAYED BEHIND ...
DRIP
THE ROOM WITH THE RIDDLE OF THE DUCK EGGS.
DRIP
DRIP

I NOTICED A DRAWING OF THE [UGLY DUCKLING], AND IT MADE ME REALIZE...

THAT MAYBE THE RIDDLE TO THE MAZE,
JUST MIGHT BE RELATED TO THE STORY OF THE [BLUEBIRD].

CUTEMANGA SCANS

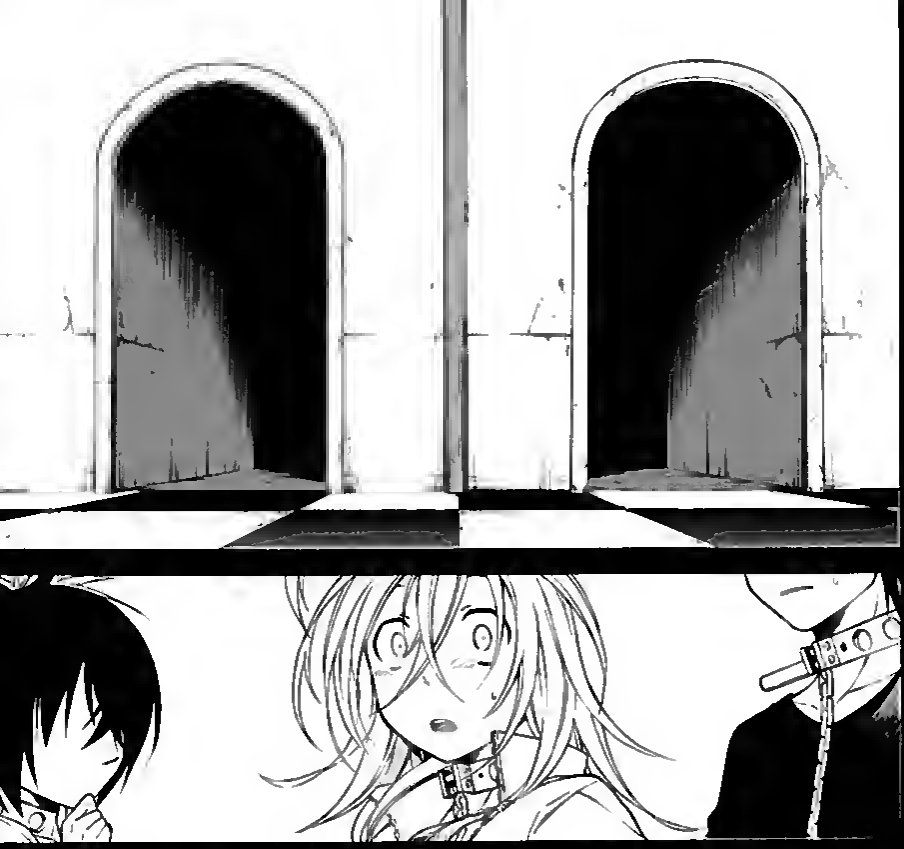
IT SEEMS THAT, FROM THE BEGINNING, OUR GOAL WAS ACTUALLY TO FIND THE BLUEBIRD
BUT, WHAT EXACTLY HAPPENED TO THE BLUEBIRD ...?
...
...BLUEBIRD IS. .

WHEN I WAS LITTLE ...
I READ IT BEFORE IN A PICTURE BOOK...
THERE WAS A PAIR OF SIBLINGS, A BROTHER AND HIS SISTER.
THAT LEFT THEIR HOME BECAUSE THEY WERE ENTRUSTED WITH A TASK BY A WIZARD, TO SEARCH FOR THE BLUEBIRD.

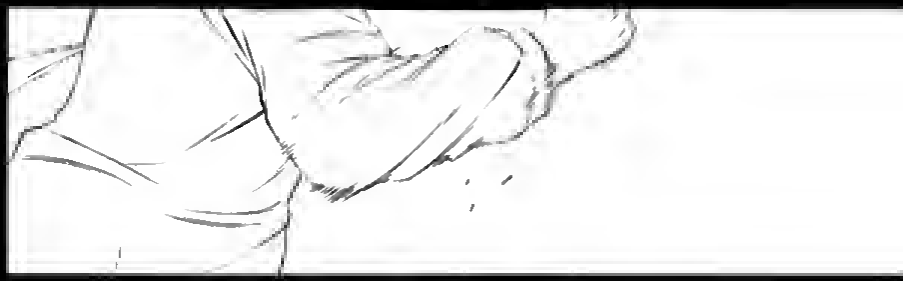
THEY SEARCHED THROUGH MANY KINGDOMS
BUT THE TWO WERE UNSUCCESSFUL IN EVER FINDING THE BLUEBIRD.
BUT THE EXPANSIVE JOURNEY THEY PARTOOK IN
SO, WHEN THE BROTHER AND SISTER WOKE UP FROM THE DREAM,
WAS, IN FACT, ONLY A DREAM.
THEY FINALLY FOUND THE BLUEBIRD.

IT'S JUST THAT THE TWO SIBLINGS WEREN'T ABLE TO PHYSICALLY SEE THE BLUEBIRD
FROM THE START, THE BLUEBIRD WAS IN THE CAGE THAT WAS INSIDE THEIR HOME...
AND THAT'S HOW THE STORY GOES...

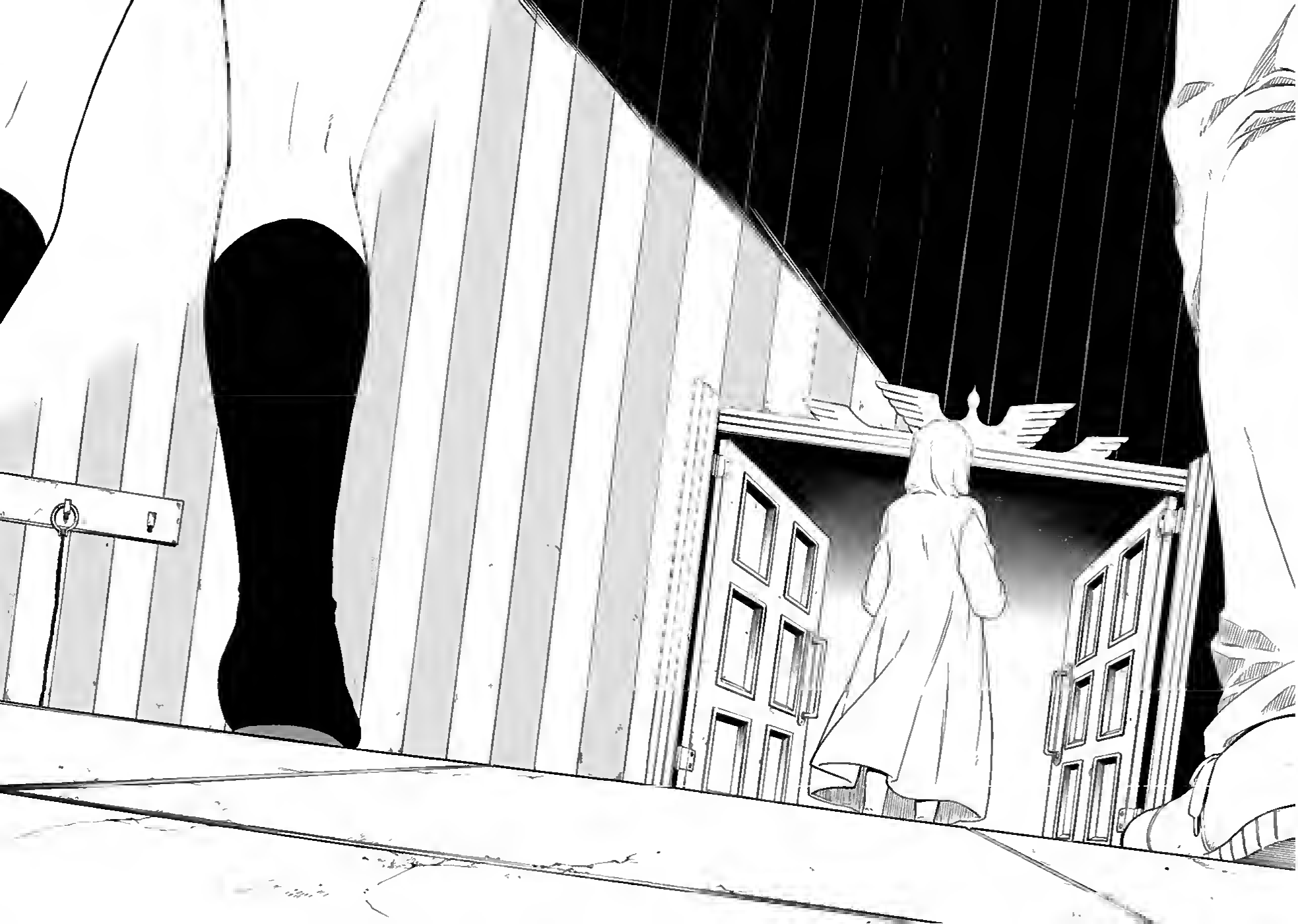
WE...
THE VERY FIRST ROOM WE WERE IN, AT THE BEGINNING WAS THE ROOM WE SLEPT IN.
AFTER LEAVING THAT ROOM, WE SEARCHED THROUGH MANY ROOMS.
IN THE END, WE LOOPED BACK HERE.
BUT WE STILL HAVEN'T FOUND THE BLUEBIRD.
REGARD-LESS,
IT'S ALREADY PREPARED, THE ROAD LEADING TO THE BLUEBIRD.


THE ENTRANCE AND THE EXIT ARE TWO IDENTICAL PATHS
THERE IS NO INDICATION AS TO WHERE EITHER PATH WILL LEAD US.
ON TOP OF THAT,
THE VERY FIRST ROOM WE WERE IN IS IN THE SHAPE OF A CAGE.

IF THAT'S THE CASE,



THEN THE BLUEBIRD THAT'S TRAPPED IN THIS CASTLE WOULD END UP BEING THE PURPLE OWL.



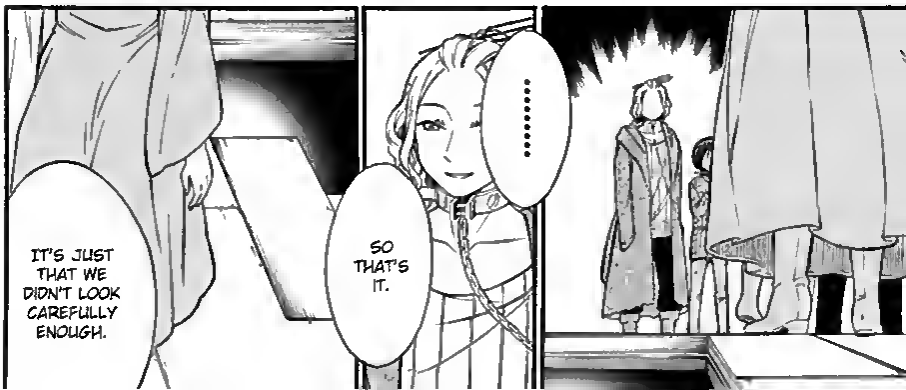
AFTER LEAVING THERE,
THEY ARRIVE IN THE FIRST ROOM, ONCE AGAIN.

.....
ARE YOU
THE PURPLE OWL?

KUMO!!

DASH
KUMO!!
KUMO-CHAN!!
SFX FREEZES

!!
GIN-KUN!


.....
SO THAT'S IT.
IT'S JUST THAT WE DIDN'T LOOK CAREFULLY ENOUGH.

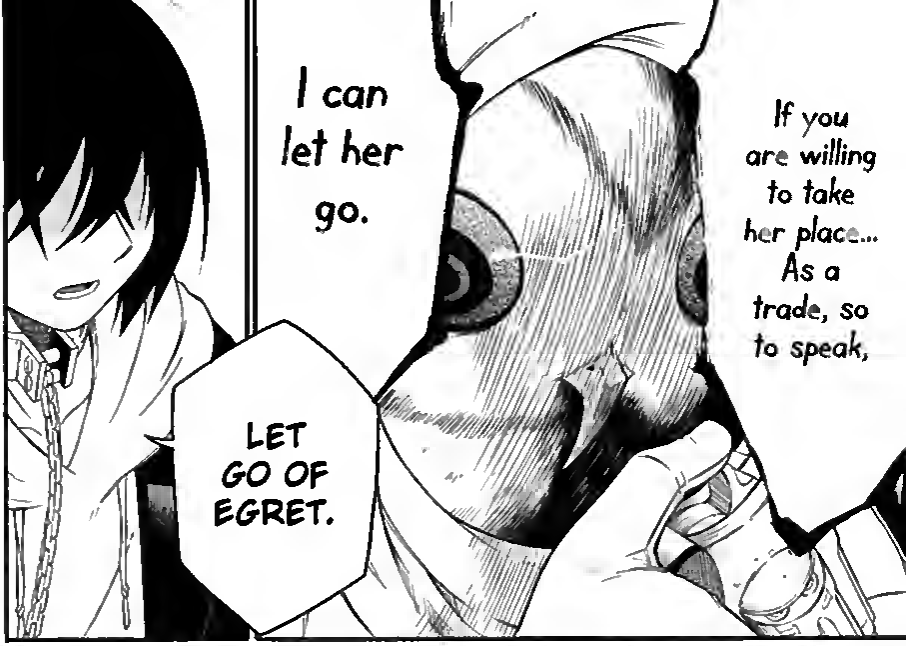
THIS MEANS...
SINCE THE VERY START,
WE WERE ALREADY IN THE BIRD CAGE.
KUMO!!
KUMO-CHAN!!!
KUMO...
KUMO...
SHE'S STILL ALIVE.
.....
NOT THAT IT MATTERS,
SINCE SHE'S BARELY HANGING ON AS-IS,

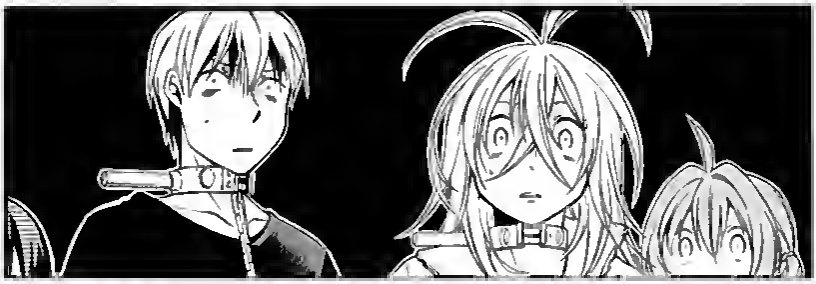
YOU GUYS ARE THE FIRST GROUP
THAT HAS SUCCESSFULLY FOUND ME.
CONGRATULATIONS,
THIS IS ALL JUST TOO WONDERFUL.
ESPECIALLY ...
KUROBE.
IF YOU WEREN'T HERE, THIS WOULD NEVER HAVE HAPPENED.
To show my gratitude,
I will give you the honor of making the choice.

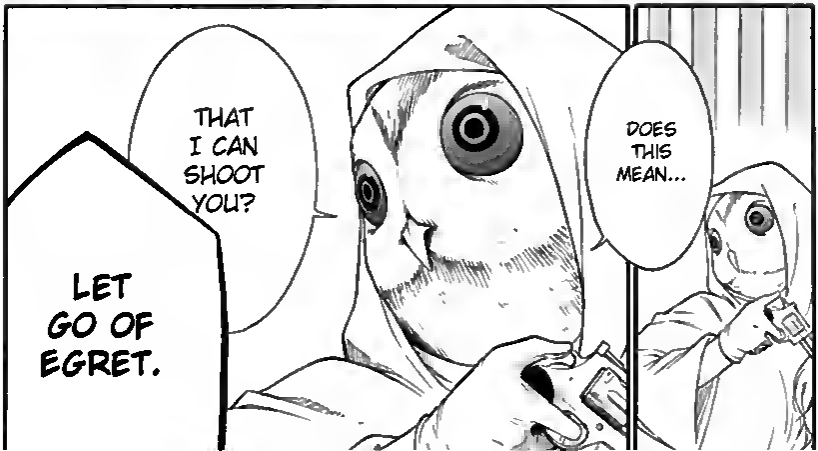
!?
As it is right now,
I'll have to kill either one of you.
So, which one will it be?

but not her.
KA-CLICK
I WILL KEEP MY PROMISE AND LET YOU LEAVE.
YOU HAVE, IMPECCABLY, FOUND ME AND MY HIDING PLACE.
WHA ...!?

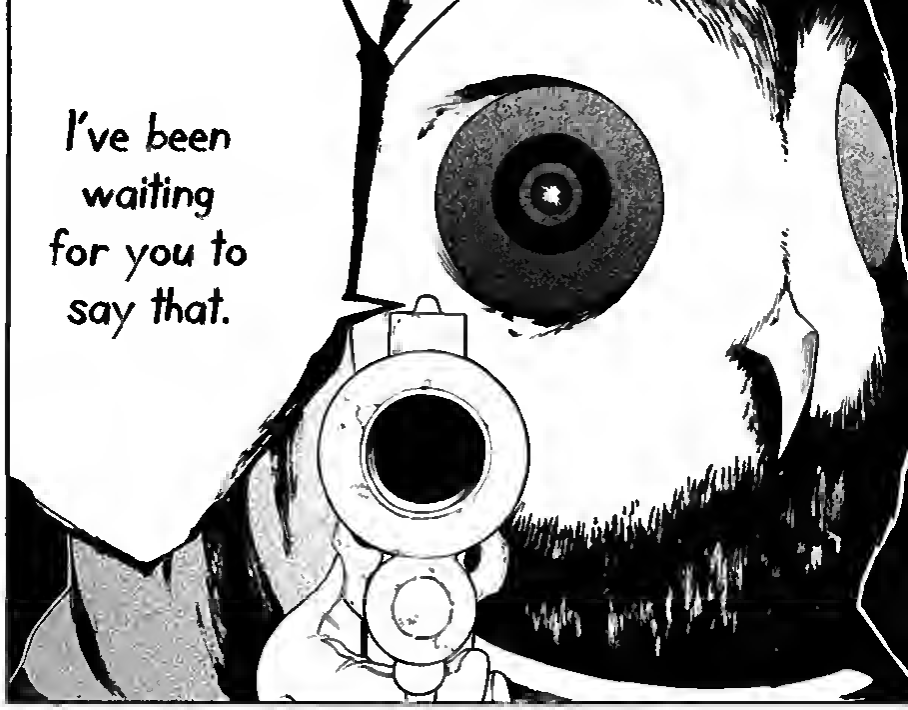
BUT IT'S DIFFERENT FOR THIS CHILD. THE REASON THIS CHILD IS STILL ALIVE,
ISN'T BECAUSE YOU'VE FOUND ME, BECAUSE SHE SHOULD ALREADY BE DEAD BY NOW.
!
SHE CAN'T LEAVE HERE WITH THE REST OF YOU.
BUT
TENSE
ON THE OTHER HAND,


I can let her go.
If you are willing to take her place... As a trade, so to speak,
LET GO OF EGRET.




THAT I CAN SHOOT YOU?
DOES THIS MEAN...
LET GO OF EGRET.

LET GO...
OF EGRET!
.....
CLICK


I've been waiting for you to say that.

NO!!

PUTS DOWN
...
I UNDER-STAND.
I WILL GIVE THIS CHILD BACK TO YOU.
AND I WON'T SHOOT YOU, EITHER.

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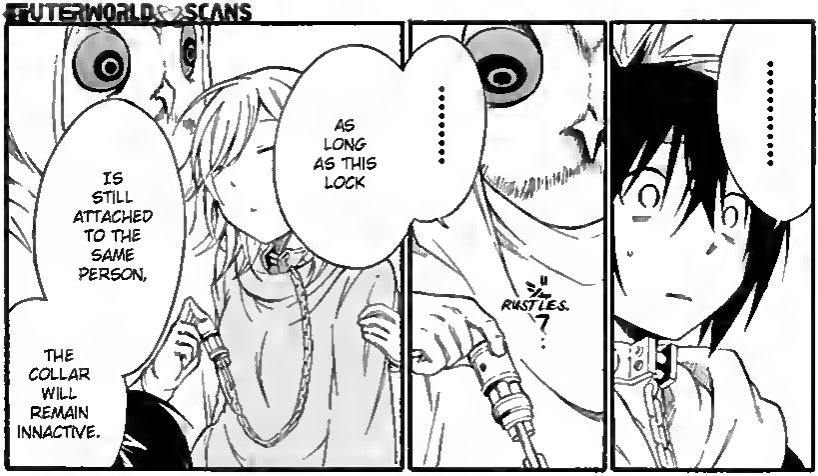
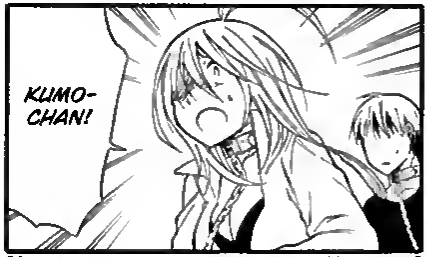
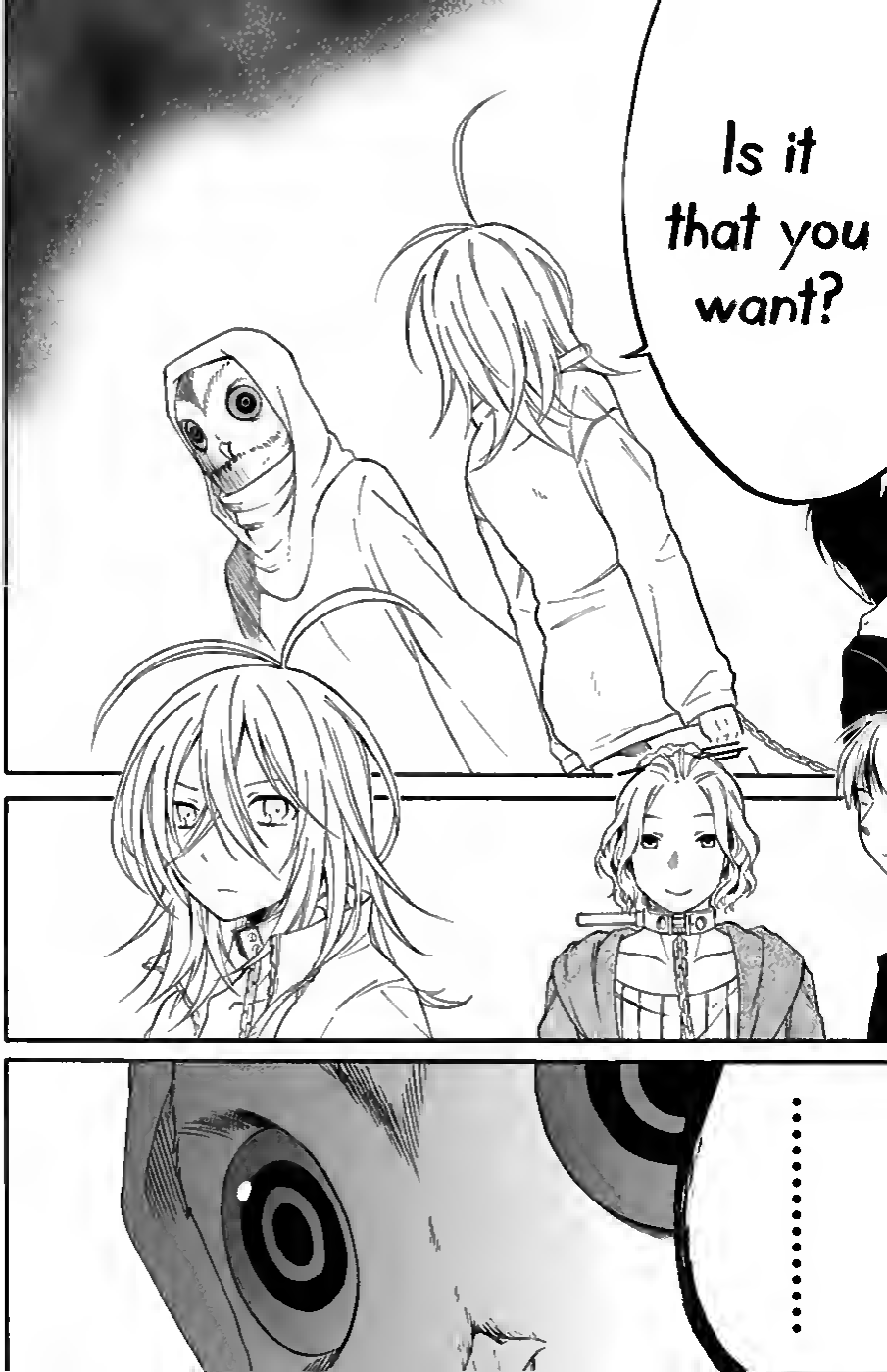


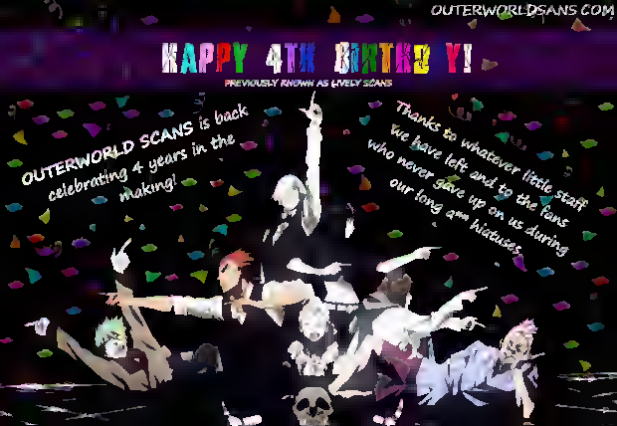


.....
Pant
WHAT EXACTLY ...
STEP


Is it that you want?
.....

HAPPY 4TH BIRTHDAY!

PREVIOUSLY KNOWN AS LIVELY SCANS


OUTERWORLD SCANS is back celebrating 4 years in the making!
Thanks to whatever little staff we have left and to the fans who never gave up on us during our long 2nd hiatuses.